

Remarks

Claims 1-5 and 7-19 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 11-13 have been amended. Applicants assert that the claims are now in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

Interview Summary

The undersigned participated in a telephone interview with the Examiner on September 27, 2004. During the interview, deficiencies in the Madsen and Hollenbach references in relation to subject matter of the present invention. Namely, it was discussed how Madsen and Hollenbach fail to disclose a cartridge within a location of a housing of a telephone, where the cartridge receives a signal having both POTS and DSL through one connector, filters out the DSL to send the POTS signal to the telephone circuitry via a connector on an end within the location of the housing, and outputs the DSL signal through another connector.

102 Rejections

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Madsen (US Pat 6,174,205). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 1-5

The Office Action has rejected claim 1 by stating that Madsen discloses all of the elements. However, amended claim 1 recites, among other things, a housing and POTS circuitry disposed within the housing for establishing telephone calls. A location within the housing is adapted to engage a filter cartridge, the location including an electrical connector for the POTS circuitry. A filter cartridge is adapted to be inserted into the location and including a first end and second end, the first end being inserted into the location. The first end including at least one electrical connector for engaging the corresponding electrical connector for the POTS circuitry disposed in the location. The second end including at least one first connector for receiving a DSL line and at least one second connector for receiving a telephone line, wherein the second end is configured to accept the DSL line and the telephone line simultaneously. The filter cartridge comprises

circuitry to receive a signal through the at least one second connector of the second end that contains both DSL and POTS signals, to filter the DSL signal out so as to pass substantially only the POTS signal to the at least one electrical connector of the first end, and to simultaneously pass the DSL signal to the at least one first connector of the second end for receiving the DSL line.

Madsen fails to disclose many of these elements of claim 1. Madsen teaches that a cartridge may be plugged into a computer, wherein the cartridge has several ports for receiving communications signals. However, Madsen fails to disclose that one connector of a cartridge receives a signal containing both a POTS and DSL signal, that the cartridge filters the signal to output the POTS signal to telephone circuitry via a connector within the location of the telephone housing while simultaneously outputting the DSL signal through another connector. While Madsen discloses that the cartridge may receive DSL signals, these signals are already downstream of filtering that Madsen does not discuss, such that a filtering device must have been placed somewhere upstream, between the cartridge and the telephone line rather than in the cartridge itself. At least for these reasons, claim 1 is allowable over Madsen.

Dependent claims 2-5 depend from an allowable claim 1 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons. Furthermore, one or more of claims 2-5 recite additional features that are allowable over Madsen.

Claims 7-10

The Office Action has rejected claim 7 by stating that Madsen teaches all of the elements. However, amended claim 7 similarly recites a first end and second end, the first end being adapted to be inserted into a location within a housing of the telephone. The first end includes at least one electrical connector for engaging a corresponding electrical connector within the telephone that is for carrying POTS signals to POTS circuitry of the telephone. The second end includes at least one DSL connector for receiving a DSL line and at least one line connector for receiving a telephone line where the at least one line connector receives a signal containing both POTS and DSL signals. The second end is configured to accept the DSL line and the telephone line simultaneously, filter the DSL signal out of the signal received via the at least one line

connector so as to output substantially only the POTS signal through the at least one electrical connector of the first end and output the DSL signal through the at least one DSL connector of the second end.

Again, Madsen fails to teach a connector of a cartridge that receives a signal containing both POTS and DSL signals, filtering the signal to provide the POTS signal through a connector within the location of the telephone, and outputting the DSL signal through another connector. Accordingly, claim 7 and its dependent claims 8-10 are also allowable over Madsen for at least these reasons.

103 Rejections

Claims 11-19 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Madsen in view of (Hollenbach US Pat 5,877,565). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Office Action has rejected claim 1 by stating that Madsen teaches all of the elements except a block for splitting the signal. However, the Office Action states Hollenbach teaches splitting of a signal such that it would have been obvious to combine Hollenbach with the disclosure of Madsen to render claim 11 unpatentable.

Amended claim 11 recites, among other things, a first end and second end, the first end being adapted to be inserted into a location within a housing of the telephone. The first end includes at least one electrical connector for engaging a corresponding electrical connector within the telephone that is for carrying POTS signals to POTS circuitry of the telephone. The second end includes at least one line connector capable of receiving a telephone signal that contains both POTS and DSL signals and a DSL connector for connecting with a DSL line, the line connector in communication with a block that splits the signal, the block in communication with a filter that removes the DSL signal so as to output substantially only a POTS signal through the at least one electrical connector of the first end, and the DSL connector in communication with the block to simultaneously receive the DSL signal. Thus, claim 11 includes a block for splitting and a filter for sending the POTS signal to through the connector within the location and to the POTS telephone circuitry.

As discussed above, Madsen fails to teach several elements including a connector that receives a signal with the POTS and DSL signals, filtering the DSL signal out to provide the POTS signal to the connector while simultaneously providing the DSL signal to another container. Hollenbach also fails to teach these elements, as Hollenbach discloses a modem receiving communication from a cellular telephone or a PSTN line. While the modem of Hollenbach may be a DSL modem such that DSL signals are received through the PSTN line, there is no discussion of filtering so as to output a POTS signal. Indeed, there is no disclosure of a separate POTS connector since the other two connectors are either for the computer data bus or the cellular telephone as opposed to a POTS line.

Furthermore, the Office Action conceded that Madsen fails to teach a block for splitting the incoming signal into two separate signals. However, Hollenbach also fails to disclose such a block. The receiving device of Hollenbach that receives signals 120, 122 and 132, 134 is not splitting signals. Instead this device is receiving either signals 120, 122 or signals 132, 134 but does not do both at the same time. Indeed, there is a special connector in Hollenbach that prevents connecting the PSTN line and the cellular line at the same time. Furthermore the cellular telephone signals have no reason to be split since they are directly exchanged with the modem. The same is true for the PSTN line signals, as they are also directly exchanged with the modem. Therefore, both Madsen and Hollenbach also fail to teach a block that splits the incoming signal.

Accordingly, claim 11 is allowable over the cited combination for at least these reasons. Dependent claims 12-19 depend from an allowable claim 11 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons. Furthermore, one or more of claims 12-19 recite additional features that are allowable over the cited combination.

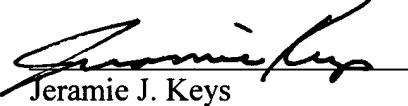
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1-5 and 7-19 is in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration after final in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 4, 2004



Jeramie J. Keys
Reg. No. 42,724

Withers & Keys, LLC
P.O. Box 71355
Marietta, Ga 30007-1355
(404) 849.2093